



United States Attorney's Office
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NEWS RELEASE

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Former employee of the 2004 John Kerry for President Campaign Pleads Guilty to Bank Fraud and Conspiracy to Steal U.S. Mail

WASHINGTON- Shane E. Tessimond, 39, a former Head Check Processor for the 2004 "Kerry for President" Campaign at its headquarters office in the District of Columbia, has pled guilty to one count of Conspiracy to Commit Mail Theft and one count of Bank Fraud, U.S. Attorney Jeffrey A. Taylor announced today.

Tessimond, of Lincoln, New Hampshire, entered his guilty plea yesterday in U.S. District Court before the Honorable Ellen S. Huvelle. Tessimond, who faces a statutory maximum sentence of 30 years' imprisonment under the statute, is scheduled for sentencing before Judge Huvelle on May 21, 2009. Under the federal sentencing guidelines, Tessimond is facing 15 to 21 months in prison.

According to the government's evidence, Tessimond began working for the Kerry Campaign as a paid employee in December 2002. He was responsible for processing contribution checks and credit card payments. Tessimond was occasionally responsible for picking up the Kerry Campaign's mail at the Goodwill Post Office in Washington, D.C. Subsequently, in June 2004, Tessimond went to work for Radnor, Inc., which was a management company for a non-profit organization called Employer's Council on Flexible Compensation ("ECFC"). ECFC is a membership organization specializing in compensation issues. Tessimond had unrestricted access to ECFC's offices, including its mail which included checks for annual dues paid by its members. While he was employed with the Kerry Campaign, then at Radnor/ECFC, Tessimond stole checks intended for his employers.

Tessimond then gave the stolen checks to an associate, Mark J. Parisi, who then deposited the stolen checks into bank accounts that they established which had confusingly similar names to the Kerry Campaign (e.g. Kerry LLC) and Employers Council on Flexible Compensation (e.g., Employees Council for Fair Compensation). Tessimond and Parisi then split the proceeds from their fraud and used the money for personal purposes. In addition, while working for Radnor/ECFC, Tessimond stole the identity of a co-worker, and opened a Bank of America credit card using the co-worker's social security number. The entire scam netted Tessimond and his co-conspirator over \$137,000.

Parisi has previously pled guilty to related charges for his role in this matter and awaits sentencing.

In announcing the guilty plea, U.S. Attorney Taylor praised the outstanding efforts of Julie C. Zachariadis, Postal Inspector with the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, Washington Division. He also commended the efforts of Legal Assistants April Peeler, Lisa Robinson, and Jamasee Lucas. Finally, he praised the work of former Assistant U.S. Attorney Chad Sarchio, who investigated the case, and Assistant U.S. Attorneys John D. Griffith and Lionel Andre, who indicted and negotiated the plea in the case.

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